

HOW and RICH:

AN

IMPARTIAL ACCOUNT of the Proceedings at the late Election
of Burgesses for the Burrough of Southwark,

Wherein are Discovered,

The palpable Forgeries of *Elephant Smith* in his pretended Relation of the same.

By one of the Loyal Inhabitants of that antient Burrough.

OUR Bromidgam-Protestant Intelligencer having not only obtruded himself upon us, at the time of our Election, as several others did unsent for, but also concerned himself so far about our Proceedings in that affair, as to arraign the wisdom of our Burrough, to bespatter our Representatives, and as an utter Abhorrer of Truth and Modesty, to publish in his Print so many notorious Falshoods in favour of one Party, I have thought it a just debt to my Neighbours to give the World a true and impartial Account of the whole matter.

The Gentlemen who were our Burgesses in the two foregoing Parliaments, had acquitted themselves so well, that 'twas generally expected that they would have been unanimously desired to accept of the Trust again; but some Strangers and those no small—thinking it seems, that they were fitter to choose for us, than we for our selves, made all the Interest they could for two other Persons. So that the Competitors were Sir *Richard How*, Knt. and *Peter Rich*, Esq; *Edward Smith*, Esq; Steward of the Burrough-Court, and *Slingsby Bethel*, Esq, one of the present Sheriffs of London.

Sir *Rich. How* and Mr. *Rich*, are Gentlemen of approved Loyalty and Integrity, publickly known to be true English Protestants, antient Inhabitants in the Neighbourhood, and liberal Benefactors to the Poor of our Burrough, and who have always quitted themselves with great Reputation in considerable Offices of Trust, both Civil and Military, and faithfully discharged their Duty as our Representatives in the two former Parliaments.

Mr. *Smith*, is a person not altogether unknown to the Inhabitants, having long enjoyed a profitable place among them, and one of Loyalty enough to recommend him to the good opinion of the better sort of the Burgers, had not himself and his Interest been tack'd to Mr. *Bethel*, who was indeed sufficiently eminent for the Figure he made in the late Revolutions, but now no otherwise known to the Electors, but by the singular Menage of his present Office, and by the Persons who solicited for him and accompanied him to the place of Election.

Thursday, Feb. 10. being the day appointed for the Choice, the Writ was read at St. *Margaret's Hill*,

and though a Poll was demanded for *How* and *Rich*, yet a View was afterwards earnestly insisted on by the D. of *Buckingham*, and other the Adherents to *Smith* and *Bethel*, but this was generally opposed and decried: not but that the Friends of *How* and *Rich* might have safely ventured on a View, had they had an Elephant or any other rare show, as the others had a Star, to attract the gazing Mobile; but because it could not decide the Election, nor answer any other good purpose, the Bailiff adjourned to the *Artillery-Ground*, the Place before appointed and mutually agreed upon for the Poll. However his Grace being resolv'd to have a View, though but of himself and party, drew up into St. *George's-Fields*, where as themselves report, there appeared above 8000 men for *Smith* and *Bethel*; though the truth is, when it came to Trial, there were not 3000 on both sides. At the opening of the Poll, the Bailiff, to shew his own Impartiality, and to prevent all future mis understandings, desired the Competitors to agree among themselves upon the methods of Proceeding. Upon which it was consented to between them, and that Agreement endorsed upon the Poll-Book, that when the Polling-Place, which would contain about 150, was full, the door should be shut, and no others admitted till all those within were poll'd off and discharg'd at a Back-door. And after some discourse of the Qualifications of the Electors, it was agreed, that, according to antient usage, all House-keepers, not receiving Alms, should be pollable. And that no others might be received, care was taken by mutual consent, that the Beadles and other Officers of the respective Parishes (and what other persons any of the Candidates did desire) should be present to take notice of all that offered themselves to the Poll, to whom all other necessary Interrogatories were strictly put, before the Question *Who are you for?* Moreover by the care and appointment of the Neighbouring Justices of the Peace, and the Bailiff, all the Conitables of the Burrough attended in and about the Polling place, to prevent any Tumult or disorder.

In this method all things were impartially and peaceably carried, till on *Tuesday* following about *Twelve* of the Clock the Poll became dry, of which several Proclamations being made,

as well within doors as without, the Bailiff by consent of all the Candidates closed the Book, and adjourn'd to the Talbot-Inn, where the Book being cast up, the numbers for each (according to *Elephant-Smith's* own Account, which with the number of the ascending steps to the door of the Polling-house, is all the material Truth in the whole Narrative) were as followeth, *How*, 1622, *Rich*, 1616. *Smith*, 1347. *Bethel*, 1334.

Now that *How* and *Rich* had the majority on their side upon the score of pure merit, will appear from the consideration, that the other two had in many other respects the advantage of them; For

I. The Bailiff of the Burrough having a dependence upon Mr. *Smith*, the Steward of the Court-Leet, it is to be supposed, that if he would have been partial (which to do him right, we acknowledge he was not) it would have been in favour of Mr. *Smith* and his Partner. And the Bailiffs men which *Elephant Smith* takes notice of, are also the Stewards Bailiffs, and hold their places at his pleasure, so that, as they hope for bread, they are bound to serve his Interest; whereas *How* and *Rich* could hope for no more than Justice from any of them.

II. If I should write after *Elephant Smith's* Copy, and trust to Common Fame, I might tell you of a famous dissenting Protestant Divine in the Neighbourhood, who a little before the Election laid himself forth with great zeal to stir up his Auditors to a liberal contribution for some secret service which he did not think fit to name, which secret service is by the same Fame said to be the purchasing the Votes of the *Sober Party*, with whom dry Money is a better Argument than Ale. But to take leave of that known Jilt, Common Fame, *Elephant Smith's* Mistress, it is certain

III. That *How* and *Rich*, in the execution of their Office of Justices of the Peace for the County of *Surrey*, had disoblged a great part of the Prisoners of the King-Bench, by being somewhat nice in interpreting the Ten-pound-Act, and refusing to discharge them by wholesale, which is a sufficient proof of the Knavery of *Elephant Smith's* attributing their success to the Votes of Beggars and Prisoners.

IV. And lastly, Amongst the many gentle and simple sticklers who swore, drank and damnd for the carrying on the Cause, *Elephant Smith* himself, overcharg'd with abundance of Ale and Zeal, very fluently discombogu'd himself among a Croud of Electors, as followeth, *Ab, Sirs, what d'ye mean? Is the Devil in your hearts and the Pope in your bellies? Would ye have your houses fired about your Ears again? I speak to you that are for How and Rich, Is the Devil in your hearts and the Pope in your Bellies, &c. I speak I say, to you that are for How and Rich.* Which being delivered with a dismal face, and in a Tone

(which 'tis the Printers unhappiness that he hath not Musick-notes to express) it must needs be a great disadvantage to those Gentlemen to have such powerful Rhetorick engaged against them, and nothing but their own merits to plead for them.

Notwithstanding all which disadvantages it appears by the foremention'd Computation, that *How* and *Rich* were duly chosen Members for our Burrough, and they will accordingly be return'd.

It must not be conceal'd, that there were many gross slanders invented by Knaves and divulged by Fools to weaken the Interest of *How* and *Rich*, which as Christians they forgive, and as Gentlemen they despise.

Whereas mighty Complaints are made on the other side of some slight Indecencies unavoidable in such Popular Elections, and for which the body of the Burrough is not accountable.

Who could help it if some Waggs, by the Emblematical Black-Pudding and the famish'd Mouse, intended an abusive Representation of the Gentleman-Strangers Nine-penny Ordinary abroad, and his empty Cupboard at home?

He must thank himself, if by threatening to pull the King's Watermans Coat over his Ears, he provok'd him to reply, *Ay, Sir, so perhaps you would my Master too, if it were in your Power.*

'Twas unlucky, that the Bailiff, by being so even in his management of the Poll as to interrogate the High-Sheriff of *Surrey*, whether he had a who'e house to himself should give occasion to a By-stander to remark, that there was a High-Sheriff present that was no House-keeper.

The rumor of his being married to *Nell Gwy* did never obtain to his prejudice and had ended with the Poll, had not he afterwards taken so much pains at the *Amsterdam-Coffee-house* to purge himself in that matter.

But certainly such petty instances of Our-Town-Raillery cannot bear out an Appeal, so much talk'd of, to the Wisdom and Gravity of so August an Assembly as the House of Commons; though perhaps the fairest pretence towards it lies on the side of the Inmates, who may with some colour complain that they were rejected at the Poll, when one of their own Character was admitted a Competitor, and who as the Kings Subjects in common, (and having Religion and Lives and Wives, as well as other men) may desire to be represented by one, whom perhaps they conceive obliged to endeavour the Relaxation of the severity of the Laws at present in force against them.

But I at first design'd only a bare Relation of Matter of Fact, and therefore to observe the Rule of leaving off when I have done, I shall trouble the Reader no farther.

F I N I S.

